

# KINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

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## ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH

for the Year

1948

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	... ..	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Resigned on 31st May, 1948) M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed on 1st June, 1948)
Clerk	... ..	MISS S. DENSHAM
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	... ..	J. P. LINGEN (Resigned 30th November, 1948) J. H. M. JOLLIFFE, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.Inst.B.E., C.S.I.B., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Commenced 1st December, 1948)

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## *To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

The housing position in the district remains acute. In addition to structural defects, overcrowding is present in many homes. The early erection of houses at the housing sites at Rushock, Eardisley and Pembridge will be valuable factors in the rural housing scheme, while the provision of accommodation for family units at the Hergest Camp site will also help to alleviate the present shortage.

The provision of houses is largely dependant upon water supplies, and in this connection it is hoped that a piped water supply for Pembridge will soon be available.

During the year there was an outbreak of whooping cough, but both age factors and seasonal incidence were favourable and no deaths resulted.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Lingen for the help he has afforded me in the past, and at the same time to welcome Mr. Jolliffe, your new sanitary inspector, who is already providing most valuable assistance.

M. J. PLEYDELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	44,472
Population ... ..	4,752
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books	1,344
Rateable Value ... ..	£13,588
Sum represented by a Penny rate ... ..	£57 1 8d.

### EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) ... ..	78	50	28
(Illegitimate) ... ..	8	2	6
Total ... ..	86	52	34
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate) ... ..	2	1	1
DEATHS ... ..	60	32	28
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) ... ..	4	3	1

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ... ..	18.1
Birth rate for England and Wales ... ..	17.9
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ... ..	22.7
Still Birth rate for England and Wales ... ..	23.0
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ... ..	12.6
Death rate for England and Wales ... ..	10.8
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	46.5
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales ... ..	34.0

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

### CLINICS

There are no clinics provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m. A Clinic is also held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital, every Friday 2—4 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. During the year a Speech Therapist has been appointed to undertake treatment of those children suffering from speech defect. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. J. H. M. Jolliffe, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The greater part of the area is dependent on wells and the majority of these are of a shallow type.

Samples are taken periodically.

A water supply for the village of Pembridge is under consideration. In conjunction with the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council, a scheme is now on foot for taking over Shobdon Aerodrome water undertaking, and carrying a main to Pembridge Village and other property adjoining the village.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The villages of Eardisley and Pembridge are the only places with any kind of sewage disposal works. Lyonshall needs a scheme, but owing to financial difficulties this has been postponed for the time being.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution that calls for any comment. No complaints were received during 1948.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL

There are three refuse disposal centres which are under the control of the Council and which operate satisfactorily. There is no house to house collection.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### INSPECTIONS

During the year 643 visits of inspection were made.

Number of inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts	...	294
Number of inspections under the Workshops and Factories Act	...	16
Number of inspections under the Milk and Dairies Acts	...	142
Number of inspections in connection with Water supplies	...	179
Infectious disease and visits in connection therewith	...	10
Premises and Clothing (lots) disinfected	...	2

### NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	...	...	...	8
Statutory	...	...	...	Nil
Defects remedied	...	...	...	4

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

## INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on		Number of	
	Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	11	16	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ... ..	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	11	16	4	—

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	4	3	—	—	—

## SECTION D.—HOUSING

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	148
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	41

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

### Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	16
Number remedied by informal action ... ..	12
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners ... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	1

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Twenty-one inspections were carried out during the year of premises where meat and other foods are sold by retail. In each instance the shops were clean and well kept.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

**WHOOPING COUGH.**—During the year there was an outbreak of whooping cough, a total of fifty-four cases being notified. The majority of these cases occurred in the third quarter of the year, affecting chiefly, children in the 4—7 year age group. The factors of both age and seasonal incidence are favourable in lessening the risks of complications and fatalities, and no deaths resulted from this epidemic.

Ten cases of measles were notified during the year. There was one case of scarlet fever, and one case of puerperal pyrexia. One case of food poisoning was notified. This was due to infection with salmonella typhi murium, and routine investigations showed that the probable source of infection was a symptomless carrier in the same household.

### ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													Total	
	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	Over 40		Unknown
Whooping Cough .....	2	2	6	2	7	7	9	11	7	1	—	—	—	—	54
Measles .... ..	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	10
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

As from July 5th, 1948, the duties relating to immunisation were transferred to the County Health Department, and the following figures are presented with the consent of the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1934).

Age at 31. 12. 48	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15	Estimated mid-year child population 1948		
									Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1948	47	46	45	44	39- 43	34- 38				
	3	44	41	40	29	226	256	639	401	718	1119

These figures indicate that 39.1% of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 32.1% at the end of 1947. 67.1% of the child population of 5—14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 73.6% at the end of last year; while 57.1% of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

## TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1948, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of seventeen males and twenty-one females, who normally reside in the Council's area.

During the year, nine new cases were notified, six on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs. During the same period one death of a person suffering from the disease occurred, three persons left the district and three recovered.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

DISEASE				Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	6	5	11
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	...	...	...	5	5	10
Diseases of the Heart and circulatory system	...	...	...	12	11	23
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	1	4
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	2	3
Prematurity and Congenital conditions at birth	...	...	...	1	1	2
Violence	...	...	...	2	1	3
All other causes	...	...	...	1	—	1



